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Breakfast kicks off weekend devoted to civil-rights icon



HONORING MLK'S MEMORY, IMPACT

More than 1,000 people attended the Valley's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration breakfast Friday, kicking off a weekend of observances honoring the slain civil-rights leader. A number of longtime community activists were honored at the event, including Andrea Weeks Hardin (right), president and founder of the Arizona Dream Builder Foundation. She received the 2018 Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement Award. Goode (left) attended a segregated high school in Phoenix and went on to earn degrees from Arizona State University before becoming only the second African-American to serve on the Phoenix City Council. **Story, Page 3A.** For a listing of King Day events, see **Page 15A.** MARK HENLE/THE REPUBLIC

Ducey's budget proposal: \$10.1B

Bulk of new money would target K-12 funding needs

Ryan Randazzo and Ricardo Cano
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Arizona would spend a record \$10.1 billion in 2019 — finally moving total state spending above pre-recession levels, with most new money going to K-12 education — under a budget plan released Friday by Gov. Doug Ducey's office.

State spending would grow by 3.2 percent in anticipation of higher tax revenues, according to the budget proposal. Not adjusting for inflation, it would be the

most ever spent by the state.

The last time the state anticipated nearly as much spending was in 2006-07, before the recession strangled the general-fund budget to a low of \$7.7 billion in 2009-10.

The spending plan doesn't anticipate a deficit. Instead, administration officials expect a \$67 million positive cash balance by the end of the fiscal year in June 2019.

The budget includes \$159 million in new initiatives.

As he did a year ago, Ducey focused

new dollars on the state's struggling education system. Eighty percent of new spending will be dedicated to education, according to the Governor's Office.

"Education, education, education" is how Gretchen Conger, Ducey's deputy chief of staff for budget and policy, described the budget. "This is a good conservative budget that focuses on the priorities of education," she added.

House Speaker J.D. Mesnard, R-Chandler, said the budget was exactly what his party expected from Ducey.

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McSally ad: 'Grow a pair of ovaries'

Video marks her official entry into Senate race

Dan Nowicki Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. Rep. Martha McSally's announcement of her run for the U.S. Senate came Friday by way of an online video spotlighting President Donald Trump, her fight against a controversial Air Force policy and an admonition to Washington, D.C., Republicans "to grow a pair of ovaries."

It also echoes Trump's brash tone and outsider point of view, referencing "PC politicians and their BS excuses."

"I'm a fighter pilot, and I talk like one," she says.

McSally, R-Ariz., was the first U.S. female combat pilot, and her campaign video tells how she battled the Pentagon to overturn a policy that required U.S. servicewomen in Saudi Arabia to wear Muslim abayas and headscarves.

"I absolutely refused to bow down to Sharia law," McSally says in the video. "After eight years of fighting, I won my

See MCSALLY, Page 10A

MORE INSIDE

Elsewhere in the race: Former state Sen. Kelli Ward tries to distance herself from an endorsement by the disgraced Steve Bannon. **5A**

More on announcement: McSally enters an already-volatile race. **6A**

Fountain Hills embraces views of night skies

Alden Woods Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Every year, Joe Bill watched the light draw closer.

He moved to Fountain Hills 30 years ago, after half a life spent underneath the speckled night skies of Minnesota and rural Wisconsin.

Fountain Hills felt like the Midwest. The town was small, but Phoenix was a short drive away. The famous fountain was nice to look at. And at night, the dark sky filled with stars and planets.

Then Fountain Hills grew. More people needed more lights. The big city's edge crept closer. LED lights took over. A dome of light spread over the

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT



Charles Barkley poses for a photo with Katie Peters before Friday's game against the Rockets. Results at sports.azcentral.com. ROB SCHUMACHER/THE REPUBLIC

Arizona photographer John Running, 77, dies

John Running, an Arizonan who mentored aspiring photographers and was celebrated for the humanity showcased in his photographs of people across the Colorado Plateau and the world, has died at 77. **3A**

USA TODAY

Prep for the Oscars

The Academy Awards are two months away, but here are six must-see films that are sure to be major contenders on Oscar night. **4B**

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